

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): For use in a router  
2 adapted to interact with an external router having, at a  
3 given time, a currently designated routing facility and a  
4 current standby routing facility, a method comprising:  
5 a) accepting, from the external router, the identity  
6 of the currently designated routing facility;  
7 b) accepting, from the currently designated routing  
8 facility of the external router when it is in a state  
9 of being the designated routing facility, network  
10 information;  
11 c) using the network information accepted from the  
12 currently designated routing facility of the external  
13 router for determining routes; and  
14 d) accepting, from the current standby routing  
15 facility of the external router when it is in a state  
16 of being the standby routing facility, network  
17 information, but not using it for determining routes.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20  
2 further comprising:  
3 e) storing the network information accepted from the  
4 current standby routing facility of the external  
5 router.

1 Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 20  
2 further comprising:

- 3 e) accepting, from the external router, an indication  
4 that the currently designated routing facility has  
5 failed;  
6 f) accepting, from the external router, an indication  
7 that the formerly current standby routing facility has  
8 been elected as a new designated routing facility; and  
9 g) using path information from the newly elected new  
10 designated routing facility.

1 Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 21  
2 further comprising:

- 3 f) accepting, from the external router, an indication  
4 that the currently designated routing facility has  
5 failed;  
6 g) accepting, from the external router, an indication  
7 that the formerly current standby routing facility has  
8 been elected as a new designated routing facility; and  
9 h) using the network information from the formerly  
10 current standby routing facility that is now the newly  
11 elected new designated routing facility.

1 Claim 24 (previously presented): A router adapted to  
2 interact with an external router having, at a given time a  
3 currently designated routing facility and a current standby  
4 routing facility, the router comprising:

- 5 a) an input for  
6 i) accepting, from the external router, the  
7 identity of the currently designated routing  
8 facility, and  
9 ii) accepting, from the currently designated  
10 routing facility of the external router when it

11 is in a state of being the designated routing  
12 facility, network information; and  
13 b) a routing facility for  
14 i) using the network information accepted from  
15 the currently designated routing facility of the  
16 external router for determining routes, and  
17 ii) accepting, from the current standby routing  
18 facility of the external router when it is in a  
19 state of being the standby routing facility,  
20 network information, but not using it for  
21 determining routes.

1 Claim 25 (previously presented): The router of claim 24  
2 further comprising:  
3 c) a storage device for storing the network  
4 information accepted from the current standby routing  
5 facility of the external router.

1 Claim 26 (previously presented): The router of claim 24  
2 wherein the input is further adapted for  
3 iii) accepting, from the external router, an  
4 indication that the currently designated routing  
5 facility has failed, and  
6 iv) accepting, from the external router, an  
7 indication that the formerly current standby  
8 routing facility has been elected as a new  
9 designated routing facility, and  
10 wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use  
11 path information from the newly elected new designated  
12 routing facility when the input accepts the indication that  
13 the formerly current standby routing facility has been  
14 elected as the new designated routing facility.

1 Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 25  
2 wherein the input is further adapted for  
3           iii) accepting, from the external router, an  
4           indication that the currently designated routing  
5           facility has failed, and  
6           iv) accepting, from the external router, an  
7           indication that the formerly current standby  
8           routing facility has been elected as a new  
9           designated routing facility, and  
10        wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use  
11        the network information that was accepted from the formerly  
12        current standby routing facility and that was stored, if it  
13        is newly elected as the new designated routing facility.

1 Claim 28 (original): A machine-readable medium having  
2 machine readable instructions stored thereon which, when  
3 executed by a machine, effect the method of claim 20.

Claims 29-34 (canceled)

1 Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 20  
2 wherein the router and the external router belong to  
3 different autonomous systems.

1 Claim 36 (previously presented): The router of claim 24  
2 wherein the router and the external router belong to  
3 different autonomous systems.